

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 9

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOVEMBER 2, 1953

Farm Discontent Is Growing Fast

Present Administration Faces Danger of Losing Friends in the Rural Areas

IN a special election last month, one of Wisconsin's congressional districts chose a Democratic congressman for the first time in that district's history. Since the region is largely rural, Democrats point to the election results as an indication that farmers everywhere are dissatisfied with the Eisenhower administration's farm program. It is charged that Eisenhower and his Secretary of Agriculture—Ezra Benson—haven't taken vigorous action to bolster the falling prices of farm products.

Republicans reply that the vote in a single district doesn't necessarily show a nation-wide trend. Furthermore, they argue, their party shouldn't be blamed for a farm price decline which started long before Eisenhower took office.

In any case, Congress and the administration must soon tackle the farm price problem. This will be a delicate job—especially in view of the regular congressional election that will be held in November of next year. Here are some of the facts that have brought the farm situation to a boiling point:

Most farm prices have taken quite a fall during the last two years or more. Corn, selling for about \$1.75 per bushel in August 1952, now brings less than \$1.50. Cotton, worth more than 40 cents a pound early in 1951, now brings about 32 cents. Wheat, priced at approximately \$2.20 per

(Concluded on page 2)



IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA'S CAPITAL. This is Sverdlov Square, a busy part of the sprawling city of more than four million people.

Life in Russia Is Harsh

Premier Malenkov Pledges More Food, Clothing, and Shelter for People of Soviet Union. Will He or Will He Not Carry Out His Promise?

SOME weeks ago Prime Minister Georgi Malenkov of the Soviet Union announced new plans to raise living standards within his country. He promised that in the future more emphasis would be placed on producing food, clothing, and shelter for the Russian people. He said that the Soviet people would receive a "better deal" than in the past.

Malenkov's speech has been the subject of a good deal of discussion among U. S. officials. They are asking these questions: Will Malenkov actually carry out his promises to the Russian people? If he does, what effect might the action have within the Soviet Union? If he does not carry out the promises, what might the results be? In either case, how may

U. S. relations with Russia be affected?

Within the Soviet Union, Malenkov's speech attracted an unusual amount of attention. Why it did so is understandable only in the light of living conditions within that country today. While the Soviet Union has made it difficult for outsiders to know what is going on in that land, there has been a slight relaxation of travel curbs within recent months. From accounts of visitors to that country and from diplomatic sources, it is possible to obtain a picture of life in Russia today.

In a country the size of the Soviet Union, living conditions, of course, vary greatly. The largest country in the world in area, the Soviet Union

covers almost one sixth of the earth's surface. Represented among its 207 million people are some 170 different nationalities. About 75 per cent of the population, however, is composed of Slavic peoples.

Despite the great differences that exist, visitors to the Soviet Union invariably receive a number of strong general impressions about the country. One is of the extremely low standards of living among the people. Visitors agree that the Russians as a whole are much poorer than the people of the U. S. and other western lands.

This impression is borne out by the latest available figures. A study made by the United Nations in 1949 gave the average yearly income per person in the Soviet Union as \$308. For the same year, U. S. per capita income was \$1,450.

At the same time, a number of recent observers have reported on the existence of a wealthy group in Russia, made up of high communist officials, top military men, and leading entertainers. There is no middle class; only two extremes—the wealthy and the poor. The original communist idea of developing a "classless society" is being ignored.

Another strong impression that visitors have received is of the Soviet emphasis on rebuilding war-devastated areas and on the growth of heavy industries. The development of coal and steel has been pushed, as has the construction of power projects. Annual steel output—now at 38 million tons—has more than doubled since 1940. (U. S. annual output is 105 million tons.) It is plain that the government has favored heavy industry at the expense of farms and industries which produce consumer goods.

Perhaps the best way to understand what life in the Soviet Union

(Continued on page 6)



Walter E. Myer

Living Exactly as We Please

By Walter E. Myer

NOT long ago I heard a youth of high school age say emphatically: "I am just waiting for the day to come when I can do exactly as I please. More than anything else, I want to live my own life, and not have to account to anyone for my actions."

The wish expressed by this young man is not uncommon among teen-agers. It is usually voiced when one is tired or discouraged or has perhaps had a disagreement with his parents. Behind the wish is the belief that as soon as one is old enough to be on his own, he can then live a carefree existence devoted solely to the pursuit of his own pleasures.

One can only hope that the young man will find out before it is too late that his wish is based on a false idea. When he reaches the age where he is no longer under parental control, he will, to be sure, acquire certain freedoms, but he

will still not be able to do just as he wants without regard for others. He will be bound by laws, by customs, and by the dictates of religion, conscience, and public opinion in shaping his daily conduct.

Moreover, this young man will soon discover that even the limited amount of freedom he acquires is no guarantee of the happy existence he had imagined. The fact is that individuals who are not accountable to anyone for their actions frequently lead disturbed and unhappy lives.

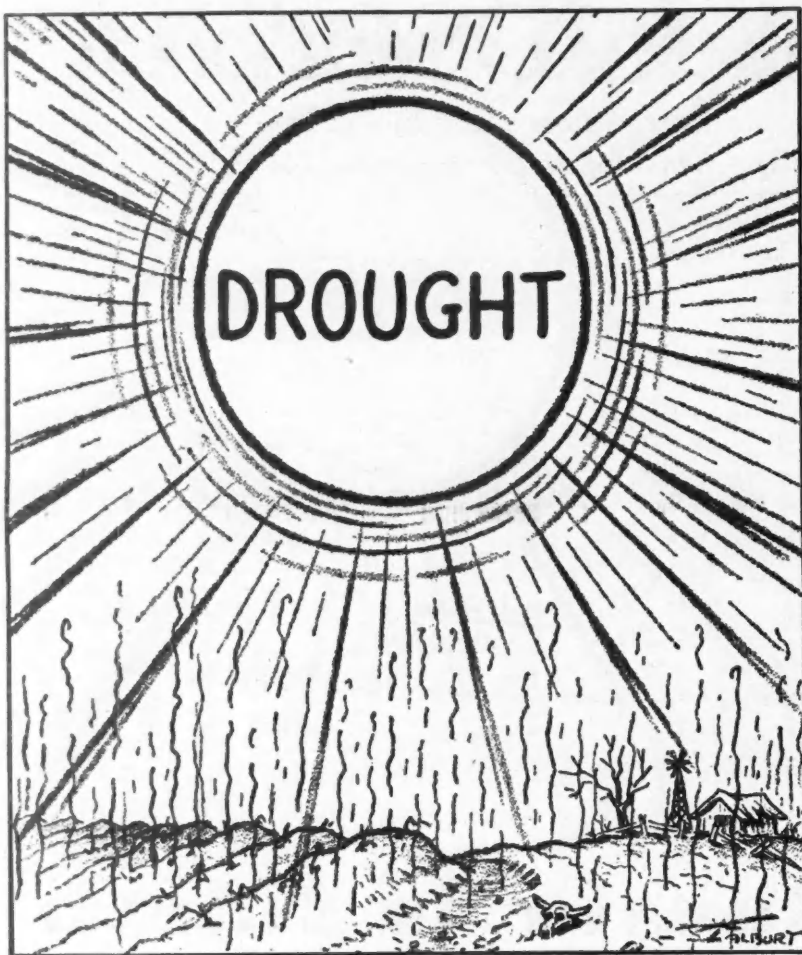
This idea was expressed aptly by newspaperwoman Muriel Nissen in a recent column in *The Washington Evening Star*. Miss Nissen wrote:

"Happiness definitely does not come with living as one chooses. It comes through having responsibilities, being aware of them and being obliged to discharge them to the very best of one's ability. Selfishness never in this world brought happiness . . . only in a creative, productive life can we really be happy. Love for children, parents,

family, country, humanity, and God—each with its own obligations, its own demands—is the foundation for contentment and happiness in life.

"The excuse, often advanced for taking an unfair advantage of a situation, that 'the world owes me a living,' or 'the world owes me happiness,' is a grave misconception. The world doesn't owe us anything we aren't willing to strive for. It might seem alluring for a while to consider dumping all obligations overboard and embarking on a glamorous 'live your own life' program, but the disillusionment would be swift and bitter. The world was not created for individual enjoyment, but for all men willing to work and live together for their mutual good.

"Living for each other, not for oneself, has accounted for whatever good humanity has accomplished. The more you can do for others and the more you can depend on them to do for you, the happier you will be. 'A life of your own' is a flight of fancy you should never really hope to realize."



DROUGHT HAS RUINED crops in certain areas, although farmers as a whole have produced an abundance of food and other agricultural products

Farm Prices Decline

(Concluded from page 1)

bushel at the end of 1951, now sells for about \$2.00 or less.

Cattle prices have taken a real tumble. Animals which would have brought roughly \$30 per hundred pounds in the spring of 1951 are now selling for slightly over half that amount.

On an average, farm prices last August were 13 per cent below where they stood a year earlier, and 17½ per cent below their February 1951 level.

Farmers might not be so seriously aroused over these declines if there had been similar reductions in their expenses. But such reductions haven't occurred. On an average, the cost of those items which the farmer *needs to buy* is almost exactly what it was in early 1951—when the prices of farm products were at a peak.

Taxes, farm labor, implements, gasoline, fertilizers, and certain other items cost even more than they did a year ago. In comparison with the farmer's expenses, farm products now bring the lowest prices that they have yielded in over 12 years.

Farmers this year expect to receive slightly more than 6 per cent of our total national income, although farm families—according to the most recent census—make up about 15 per cent of our population. This doesn't mean, of course, that all farmers are in bad shape financially. Some are prosperous. As a group, though, they have incomes far below the national average.

In view of these facts, farmers deeply resent the frequent charge that they are to blame for today's high food prices. They say:

"We realize that the American people now pay extremely high prices for food and other items that originate

on the farm. We know that the city people blame us for such prices.

"But the facts are these: We don't get a very large part of the money that the consumer pays. Out of each dollar that the American people spend for food, our average share is a little less than 45 cents. Two and a half years ago it was 50 cents.

"The wheat farmer gets less than 3 of the 17 cents you pay for a loaf of bread. The dairy farmer gets less than half of what you pay for milk.

"So if food prices are too high, the blame should be put on the middlemen (those who process foods and distribute them to the consumers). They now get the largest slice out of the food dollar, and their 'take' is increasing while ours is growing smaller."

An Answer

The middlemen defend themselves in this way:

"We do an essential job. There are many necessary steps between the cow and the hamburger, or between wheat in the farm truck and bread on your table. These we perform. Over the last few years, our expenses have been rising. We must pay more for labor and equipment. Our charges, in view of these facts, are not excessive."

This is one controversy that certainly won't end any time soon. Meanwhile, farmers are not the only people who complain about the present decline of rural incomes. The squeeze is also felt by merchants who depend on farm operators for most of their business. Sales of farm equipment in this country during August 1953, it is reported, totaled about 32 per cent below such sales made during the previous August.

Up to this point, while discussing

the fall of farm prices, we haven't gone into the question of *what causes this decline*. The main reason is crop surpluses. America's farmers are able to raise far more food and cotton than can be used within our own borders or sold profitably abroad. Moreover, there are so many farmers that they cannot—without government help—get together and plan their output so as to stop "overproducing."

Farm surpluses are no new problem. They were causing much trouble between the two World Wars, and in 1933 our government began taking strong measures to control them. During World War II, when we and our allies needed all the food and other farm products that could be produced, the problem of surpluses was nearly forgotten. But it came back to haunt us shortly after the conflict ended.

Prices of farm goods then started down. The government, working through a system of "price supports" that had been set up in the late 1930's, took steps to check their fall. Today the prices of many farm items are being kept, by government action, far above what they otherwise would be.

Uncle Sam buys large quantities of dairy products and certain other foodstuffs in order to bolster their prices. On several other items—wheat, for example—there is a loan program. The government lends the farmer enough money to equal the value of his wheat at a price known as the "support level." Then, if he can make no better deal elsewhere, the farmer can keep the money and turn his wheat over to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The government holds this wheat in hope of selling it later.

Under its loan and purchase programs, our federal government has acquired and piled up tremendous supplies of farm products. As of August 1, it owned nearly half a billion bushels of wheat, a quarter-billion bushels of corn, a quarter-million bales of cotton, a quarter-billion pounds of butter, 184 million pounds of cheese, and 354 million pounds of dried milk. Often Uncle Sam is unable to get rid of these items except at a big loss.

When surpluses of certain farm products become *extremely* large, the government seeks to reduce the national output of them. Restrictions have already been placed on farm acreage used for tobacco, peanuts, and wheat. Limits on cotton output are now being sought, and corn may soon be added to the list.

Here is an example of how the government imposes such restrictions: Last summer the Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Benson, proposed that next year's wheat crop be cut 20 per cent below this year's acreage. He asked that a vote be taken to see whether the wheat farmers would accept the proposal.

Acreage restrictions were to take effect only if these farmers accepted by a two-thirds vote. In that case, each farmer who raises any sizable amount of wheat would be given a certain limit as to how much he may plant for next year. The government, in turn, would continue to guarantee a wheat price of about \$2 a bushel.

If the limitations did *not* receive approval by at least two-thirds of the voting farmers, they wouldn't be imposed. But, in that event, the government wouldn't guarantee a wheat price of more than about \$1.25.

On August 14 the farmers *accepted* wheat acreage restrictions by an overwhelming majority. In December the

cotton growers will approve or reject controls on *their* next crop.

Prices of beef cattle, which have dropped sharply in recent months, are not supported by the government. Many livestock raisers are angry because of this. They know that the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to establish price supports for cattle, and they think he should do so.

Secretary Benson's supporters reply that the Agriculture Department has sought to check the fall of cattle prices by making large purchases of beef.

The present laws under which our price support program operates are to expire at the end of next year. Congress and the Eisenhower administration will soon have to decide whether this program will be extended with only minor changes, or whether a new plan should be adopted.

Supports Expected

It is practically assured that the government will continue to fix, or guarantee, certain prices that the farmers can count on receiving for their crops. One of the main causes of farm unrest today, however, is this: Farmers who are already dissatisfied with current prices are afraid that Secretary Benson wants permission to set federal price guarantees at far lower levels than now prevail.

The whole question of federal supports for farm income has long been a subject of dispute. Many Americans think it is wrong for the government to spend great quantities of the taxpayers' money on "subsidies"—financial aid—to the farmers. They feel that our farm operators should be willing to rely on the normal market prices for their incomes.

Other observers reply that the farmers constitute only one of many groups that get federal subsidies. The columnist Drew Pearson says that in 1952 the government spent over twice as much on financial aid to businessmen as it spent on the farmers. U. S. airlines receive substantial subsidies,



EZRA BENSON, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

for example, and so do steamship companies.

"Farm aid," it is argued, "helps our whole population. There are millions of farm people in this country. When they are prosperous, their purchases of goods and services stimulate business and industry throughout the land. When they are hard pressed and cannot buy so much, business suffers."

These are among the viewpoints that will receive consideration as Congress and the Eisenhower administration tackle the farm problem.

(For discussion of farm troubles caused by this year's drought, see note on page 4.)

Youth's Views on Combatting Delinquency

Students Urge Better Home Relationships, Discipline, Recreation

(In recent articles on crime, we asked students to write us their views on juvenile delinquency and to tell us what is being done in the various communities to meet the problem. Following are excerpts from some of the hundreds of letters we have received. We'll continue to run as many other student contributions as possible in future letter columns.)

MARJORIE Sheehan of Flushing, New York, writes encouragingly that "the Police Athletic League and the Parish societies" in her community "have certainly done their part in making teenagers wholesome, law-abiding citizens. Too, most of the parents are doing all that is possible in cooperating with the community."

Patricia Venezia of Long Branch, New Jersey, also writes the good news that her "community has little juvenile delinquency. The YMCA has done a great deal. It has built a new building, with community help, and offers all kinds of recreation, including a roller skating rink and a basketball court. There are two clubs at the 'Y'—one for girls, and the other for boys. The senior high school also helps to keep young people active with a sports program for both boys and girls."

A number of letters present ideas on what ought to be done. A big stack of the mail is from New London, Wisconsin, where it seems that students have carried on a debate on juvenile delinquency.

Here are some excerpts from the New London letters:

"Juvenile delinquency could be curbed (to some extent) by stricter discipline in our homes," writes Mary Jane Cornelius. "I don't believe in the old adage 'Spare the rod and spoil the child,' for too much use of the rod builds up resentment toward parents. I mean that you should obey parents' rules, and let them know what you are doing and why. They then will be better able to help you when a problem arises. The privileges you are given are a type of discipline. When you show that you know right from wrong, discipline will be lifted gradually and you will be left to rely upon yourself in judging what is proper conduct."

Julie Knapp also believes in stricter discipline and "closer family relationships between parent and children," as do Irene Kubusiak, Mary Termanich, and Elaine Krinke.

In presenting another side of the debate, Corinne Thorpe of New London says bluntly that "I don't believe stricter control in the home would lessen juvenile delinquency. Fewer adult controls would show young people that faith is placed in them, and they would try to live up to that trust."

Harry Spiegelberg thinks discipline can be overdone and that youth's need is a deeper spiritual life. Ardis Kalbe believes "more parents should take part in their children's lives." Curt Sommer urges elders and younger people to spend more time together. Gwen Longrie proposes better housing and recreational facilities—so young people won't "find themselves gathering on street corners."

Judy Taube of Miami, Florida, writes that "lack of religious training" is "the most serious cause" of



THEY RUN TOGETHER. Youthful delinquency is often caused by parents who fail to devote sufficient time to their children and to make home life attractive.

juvenile delinquency. Evelyn Max of Annapolis, Maryland, also feels that youth needs a deep religious faith for guidance.

Helen Tinch of Buffalo, New York, thinks that "more should be done in our cities to provide youth with recreational facilities." Another student from New York, S. Horowitz of Hempstead, thinks that every city should "organize a youth center."

Joan Lambert, East Northport, New York, is convinced that "interested parents, who immediately curb the objectionable companionships of their teenagers are doing the most to bring about the downfall of juvenile delinquency."

Betty Wade of Marshall, Missouri, says that "more boys and girls should go to church." Elizabeth Reich of Farmersville, Texas, asserts that "bad or poor home life and a lack of religious worship are the main causes of crime among youth. Parents could help overcome this."

Monroe May, Jr., San Antonio, Texas, insists that "it is not true that we are 'going to the dogs,' as older people say," and advises "anyone who thinks we are" to help build more recreation centers. Samuel Schoning of Merrick, New York, adds that "a general drop in ethics by citizens" of all ages has influenced youth to lower its moral standards. He feels that youth, alone, should not be blamed.

Helen Jorgensen of Maywood, Illinois, thinks "it will take more than recreation facilities to clear up" the juvenile problem, "but the facilities are 50 per cent of the cure." Herb Murphy, Jr., of Two Harbors, Minnesota, says less money would have to be spent for reform schools "if more were spent on slum districts and on recreation buildings for young people." Likewise, Pat Brittain of Akron, Ohio, writes that "if youth had recreational facilities, the crime wave would

decrease rapidly." Dorothy Bauer of Aberdeen, South Dakota, suggests that teenagers themselves "form clubs to work for a decrease in crime."

Ed Gardner of Robinson, Illinois, blames "lack of public interest" for much juvenile delinquency. He suggests that "people who complain the loudest" would have "much less to complain about if they would help some youth improvement project."

Loretta Bengel of Westphalia, Michigan, says that "if parents and teachers see that youth is made to follow the rules (of life) now," young people won't try to "get away" from the rules in later years.

Annette Henshaw of Galesburg, Illinois, blames two kinds of parents for some delinquency. First are the parents who "hold back" their children; then there are the parents who allow "too much freedom." In both cases, Annette writes, the children may go astray.

Alice Meurer of Shelton, Washington, points to the problem of homes where both parents work, "leaving their children to do anything they want." "There would be less delinquency," the letter adds, "if all parents provided homes for their children."

From Alfred Goldenberg, of Palm Springs, California, Attorney General of the 16th Annual California Boys' State Government, comes the suggestion that "endowing the average teenager with a respect for the law" is important.

Iva Hickman of Portland, Oregon, says delinquency will decline if parents "show more understanding" of their children. Marva Bond of Junction City, Kansas, believes businessmen could contribute more to provide places for young people to get together. Donna White of Hannibal, Missouri, blames "neglect by parents" for much youthful delinquency.

"The answer is not the amount and

kinds of recreation a city may offer," writes James Lanier of Wilmington, North Carolina, "but the religious opportunities it provides." Similarly, Rita Halling of Watertown, South Dakota, says that the need for "religious training is not stressed enough by parents."

"Civic organizations, the churches, and schools" should lead "attempts to curb delinquency," says Meredith Mitchell of Red Bank, New Jersey. "Correct leadership in home and school" is needed, writes Ronald Stier of St. Meinrad, Indiana. "Government help" is necessary, suggests Colleen O'Riva of San Luis Rey, California.

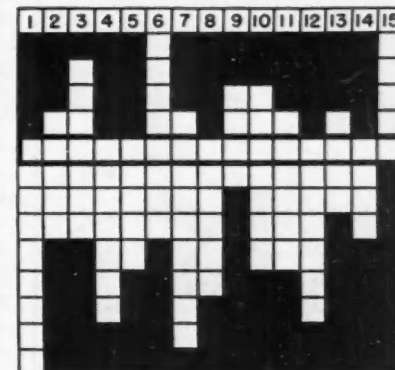
Ellen Barton of Newark, New Jersey, writes about the need for "character building." Darrell Rector of Fort Morgan, Colorado, Edith Weinstock of Great Neck, New York, Carolyn Lincoln of Farmingdale, New York, Burton Willis of Chicago, Illinois, Karen Wolske of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Sonja Clauson of Ault, Colorado, are among the many who sent us good ideas on the need for recreational facilities and the special problem of improving slum areas.

Since additional letters are coming in every day, we cannot include them all in this feature.

PUZZLE ON RUSSIA

Fill in the numbered vertical rows according to the descriptions given here. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will enclose the name often used for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1. Russia's political-economic system is called _____.
2. Russia's most famous river.
3. Moscow headquarters of the Russian government.
4. Russian foreign minister.
5. Mountains that divide European and Asiatic Russia.
6. Russia's premier.
7. Chief Russian delegate to the UN.
8. Dictator of Russia who died early this year.
9. What the Russians use to overrule decisions in the UN Security Council.
10. Big wheat-growing region of Russia.
11. Units (plural) of Russian money.
12. Far eastern region of Russia.
13. A continent in which much of Russia lies.
14. Neighbor of Russia that has quarreled with Britain over oil.
15. Russia's biggest ally.



Last Week

ACROSS: States rights. VERTICAL: 1. Trieste; 2. Taft; 3. Zone A; 4. Tito; 5. Greece; 6. Yugoslavia; 7. Adriatic; 8. Guiana; 9. Georgetown; 10. Nehru; 11. Italy; 12. Texas.

The Story of the Week

Jordan and Israel

Quarreling between the Arab state of Jordan and Jewish Israel has created a grave new danger to peace in the Middle East. As reported last week, the present crisis arose when Israeli forces attacked some Arab villages and reportedly killed a number of Arabs. The United Nations has taken up the matter.

The real story goes back to the establishment of Israel as a nation in Palestine, the ancient Biblical land. Arabs, claiming Palestine for themselves, opposed the Jewish state. When Israel declared its independence in 1948, Arab countries, including Jordan, went to war against the new nation. The UN stepped in and got the two sides to agree to an armistice in 1949.

Under the armistice, Israel took possession of a portion of Palestine, and other regions went to Jordan. The dividing line between the two countries cuts through the center of villages and towns in some cases. As a result there has been constant friction between Arabs on one side and Jews on the other side of the frontier.

Israel, about the size of New Jersey, has a population of just over 1,600,000. Those who present Israel's case say:

"Arabs from Jordan have been attacking Israeli villages for months to rob and kill Jewish people. The killing of a mother and her two children recently stirred up high feeling. Israeli struck back at the Arabs because of their terrible deed. Jordan has done everything possible to provoke trouble since the armistice, and has kept tension high by refusing to turn the armistice into a permanent peace agreement."

Jordan, a kingdom about the size of Ohio, has a population of 1,400,000. Those who speak for Jordan say:

"The killing of the Jewish woman and her children was an unfortunate tragedy, but one calling for police—not military—action. Jordan was co-operating with UN investigators searching for the criminals. What happened? Israel sent military forces into Jordan to carry out a massacre. Surely we cannot be blamed for representing such actions."

Off-Year Elections

Americans in various parts of the country will go to the polls tomorrow. Though the next big election year isn't until 1954, a number of important offices are to be filled this month. In 18



JORDAN and Israel, feuding neighbors



HOW LONG will canned food keep? This "flip vacuum" tester is used to judge how long one can safely store meats, vegetables, and other foods in cans.

states there will be elections tomorrow and next Tuesday.

Most of the balloting will be for city leaders, such as mayors, members of school boards, and other community officials. The local contest which will attract widest attention is New York's mayoralty race. Four candidates have entered the stiff competition for the job of heading the nation's largest city.

Two states—New Jersey and Virginia—are choosing governors tomorrow. A few states are selecting other state officials, and two will elect representatives to Congress. One of these congressional races, in New Jersey, will be decided tomorrow; the other, in California, will be voted upon next Tuesday.

Though congressmen are usually elected in the even-numbered years, the California and New Jersey races were necessary to fill vacancies.

Sabres vs. MIGs—II

Which is the better jet fighter plane, the Soviet-built MIG or our Sabre? Air experts differ in their answers to this question. We reported the views of Frank Jarecki—a Polish flyer who escaped across the Iron Curtain in a MIG—on this controversy last September 14. Jarecki declared that the Russian craft is far and away the best jet fighter now in the sky.

Not long ago, a number of U. S. test pilots tried out a MIG jet flown to our side by a North Korean airman who fled from communism. One of the test pilots was Major Charles Yeager, the first American to fly faster than the speed of sound. Here is what the U. S. flyers say about the MIG:

"The Red jet fighter is a good plane, but it's too light for its engine. The poorest feature of a MIG, though, is its lack of automatic equipment. This forces the pilot of the communist plane to keep busy with controls when his full attention is needed for air combat. The Sabre is well equipped with various automatic devices.

"The MIG's heating and ventilating system in the cockpit—which may mean the difference between life and death for the pilot under certain flying conditions—is vastly inferior to the

equipment found in our jet fighter. Finally, the Soviet craft has a lower maximum speed than our Sabre."

The Drought

It seems strange that crop surpluses (see article beginning on page 1) and drought can be troubling our nation's farmers all at the same time, but such is the case. While surpluses push farm prices downward for the country as a whole, farmers in many areas are having their incomes further reduced by dry weather.

Cattlemen are especially hard hit. Shortages of pasture, feed, and water have forced them to sell many of their animals regardless of low prices. By flooding the market, moreover, they have driven those prices down further.

The drought adds to President Eisenhower's troubles in the farm states. While farmers aren't holding Ike responsible for the lack of rainfall, many of them do feel that his administration hasn't been doing as much as it should to provide drought relief.

Administration officials reply that Uncle Sam has helped get livestock feed to dry areas, has helped drought-stricken farmers obtain emergency loans, and has encouraged the states in various relief measures.

Tinless "Tin" Cans?

If you are an average American, you and other members of your family will open 778 tin cans this year. All told, the nation uses over 33½ billion metal containers annually! It's easy to see that tin cans play an important part in our daily lives.

Because we have little or no tin ore of our own, we depend on other nations for the raw material that goes into the making of our metal containers. A big share of our tin comes from Malaya, Indonesia, and other southeast Asian countries. Bolivia and the Belgian Congo are other important producers of the metal.

If war should come, our overseas tin supplies would be endangered. For that reason, and because tin is more expensive than other metals, the nation's can producers are now working on new types of tinless containers with

the same qualities for preserving food that the cans now in use have. "Tin" containers are already made almost entirely of steel, with only a very thin coating of tin. The tin is needed to prevent foods and other canned goods from spoiling.

The tin can is just a little over 140 years old. It was in 1810 that an Englishman, Peter Durand, invented a "tin cannister." Since that time, the production of metal containers has undergone numerous changes and has grown into a giant industry.

Agricultural Chief

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson's methods of dealing with the nation's agricultural problems are now a center of controversy among farm and political leaders (see page 1 story).

Benson, who has spent much of his life engaged in various forms of farming activity, took over as Department of Agriculture chief when President Eisenhower entered the White House last January. Born 54 years ago in Whitney, Idaho, the agricultural leader grew up on a farm. By the time he was five years old, his friends say, young Benson already knew how to handle a team of horses. He spent many of his after-school hours working in his family's beet fields and doing other farm chores.

Later, Benson studied farm subjects at the Utah State Agricultural College and earned an advanced degree at Iowa State College. He then returned to his home county in Idaho to farm and to work as a representative for the University of Idaho's farm service program.

In time, Benson took part in setting up an agricultural cooperative group in Idaho to help farmers work together in solving marketing and production problems. He continued to be active in the cooperative movement and, shortly before becoming Secretary of Agriculture, he was made head of the American Institute of Cooperatives. This organization has some 1,500 member groups.

Benson, whose great-grandfather was a prominent early member of the Mormon Church, holds a high place in his religion's governing body. He is now on leave-of-absence from his post in the Church.



FARM CHAMPION Stanley Chapman, 20, of Monroe, Washington (with his mother). He was named Star Farmer of America at the annual convention of Future Farmers of America at Kansas City, Missouri. He is holding his prize—a \$1,000 check.



CHEERLEADERS help add fun and excitement to our games

Cheerleading Squads

Organized cheering is today as much a part of the autumn football scene as are the goalposts on the field. Nearly every high school has a lively, attractively clad squad to lead the spectators in spirited cheering.

So popular a school activity has cheerleading become that several colleges hold annual clinics for high school groups at which the latest cheerleading techniques are taught. In Westchester County, New York, cheerleading squads from about 25 high schools compete every spring in a contest that attracts wide attention.

The custom of cheering at football games is believed to have started in 1869 when Princeton and Rutgers met in the first college gridiron game. To unnerve their opponents, the Princeton players used a blood-chilling yell which the Confederates had employed when going into battle in the War Between the States. The idea backfired, for yelling required the Princeton players to use a lot of breath and interfered with their play. Rutgers won the game 6 to 4.

Princeton asked for a return game, though, and a week later the two teams met. This time the Princeton players had some of their classmates stand on the sidelines and give the "rebel yell." Urged on by the cheering, Princeton came out on top 8 to 0.

Electricity From the Atom

Within the next decade or so, electricity and other forms of power may be produced from the atom on a commercial basis, predicts the Atomic Energy Commission—the government agency that supervises our atomic programs. Uncle Sam, hoping to keep ahead of Russia in the atomic field, has recently decided to go full speed ahead with projects to put atomic energy to industrial use.

The nation's first full-scale atomic plant for producing electricity is now under construction. When it is finished in three or four years, it will supply power to an AEC installation. It is expected to turn out enough power to supply the needs of a city of over 50,000 people. Other experiments are also being conducted to harness the atom to work for us.

The AEC's pioneer plant is being built under the direction of Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover, who has spent

many years in atomic research. Westinghouse will build the plant for Uncle Sam at a cost of "tens of millions of dollars."

The AEC says that a number of kinks must still be ironed out before atomic power plants can be built commercially. The agency hopes to overcome these problems while building its trial plant. Then, the AEC says, every effort will be made to encourage private business to help put the atom to commercial use.

"Youth Wants To Know"

Several weeks ago we announced a plan whereby student readers of our current history papers might send us questions to be asked of guest speakers appearing on the "Youth Wants To Know" television program. In order to operate successfully, the plan required our knowing well in advance the names of persons scheduled to appear on the program. On two occasions out of four during the past month, however, we have failed to receive the necessary information from the program's management.

Rather than continuing to participate in an arrangement that appears to be so indefinite, we feel it better to terminate our cooperation at this point. We appreciate the excellent questions from students in response to our earlier announcements in THE

AMERICAN OBSERVER, and we are sorry to disappoint them.

We invite students to continue sending letters expressing their opinions on the issues presented in our papers. A cross-section of student opinion appears weekly in the "Readers Say—" column; also on page 3 this week.

Mayors to Meet

The mayors and other heads of about 175 American cities are getting ready for a trip to Washington, D. C. They will go to a special White House meeting, scheduled for December 14 and 15, with President Eisenhower and other top government officials.

The purpose of the forthcoming White House get-together is to brief the country's city heads on home defense problems. The city executives will be shown the latest methods for improving their own community defense setup, and for organizing disaster relief programs in case of trouble.

In Latin America

Cuba's President Fulgencio Batista, who seized power in March, 1952, has promised to ease up on his strict supervision of the press in his island country. He says he will soon lift all government censorship over news printed in Cuba's papers. Batista has also promised to hold free national elections in November, 1954. Cubans are now waiting to see if their president will carry out his promises.

Bolivia is getting special aid from the United States to help the South American land provide food for its people. Uncle Sam has agreed to send the Bolivians about \$9 million in food and other aid. The Latin American republic needs help because its earnings from the sale of tin—the land's chief export—have been dropping lower and lower in recent months. Tin now sells for about 80 cents a pound on the world market. That price, Bolivians say, is 25 cents below the cost of producing the tin.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's major articles will deal with (1) American Education Week; (2) the Philippine election.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A nickel goes a long way these days. You can carry one for several days before you find anything it will buy.

★

A four-year-old boy got a severe sunburn and his skin began to peel. One day, as he washed his face, his mother heard him mutter to himself: "Only four and wearing out already."

★

"I'll meet you halfway," said Gracie Allen to George Burns during an argument. "I'll admit I'm right if you admit you're wrong."

★

Some women have very little trouble with economics. For example, there is the wife who showed a new hat to her husband and said: "It was reduced from \$20 to \$10, so I can pay for it with the \$10 I saved."

★

A girl from the city watched several farmhands spreading hay to dry. After a few minutes she asked: "Are they looking for the needle?"

He: "So many women marry for money. You wouldn't marry me for money, would you dear?"
She (absent-mindedly): "Not for all the money in the world."



"No, we're not paying you what you're worth, Ledby—mustn't violate the minimum wage law, you know"

Study Guide

Farm Prices

1. What do Republicans and Democrats say about the conclusions that might be drawn from last month's special election in Wisconsin?

2. On an average, how do present prices of farm items compare with those in early 1951? Compare farm expenses now and in early 1951.

3. Out of each dollar that the American people spend on food, what is the farmer's average share? Is his share increasing or decreasing?

4. How do "middlemen" defend themselves when blamed for high food prices?

5. Are farmers buying more farm machinery this year than last, or are they buying less?

6. What is the main reason for the decline in farm prices?

7. Briefly explain how the government seeks to support the prices of farm products.

8. Give arguments for and against the use of farm price supports.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not feel that the Republicans are to a considerable extent responsible for our nation's present farm difficulties? Explain your position.

2. Do you favor a system of price supports for farm products? Why or why not?

Soviet Russia

1. What pledges did Prime Minister Georgi Malenkov of Russia make to his people not long ago?

2. How have recent visitors to Russia been impressed regarding living standards in that country?

3. Tell how a factory worker lives in Russia today.

4. Describe the life of a farm worker under the Soviet regime.

5. Why is it that living standards for the Russian people have advanced so little in recent years?

6. What may Malenkov's promises to his people mean regarding the threat of global war (1) if he carries them out? (2) if he breaks them?

Discussion

1. Do you think it is possible for the United States and Russia—countries which follow such different political and economic systems—to get along together? Or do you think global war is bound to result? Explain.

2. Do you think the United States should make new efforts to get its views through to the Russian people? If so, how do you think the job could be done most effectively?

Miscellaneous

1. Briefly give the background of the Israel-Jordan dispute.

2. Why are elections being held this month? What are some of the offices to be filled?

3. What important meeting is to be held in Washington, D. C., on December 14 and 15?

4. After recent tests of a Russian MIG jet fighter, what did the U. S. flyers say about it?

5. Briefly trace the career of Ezra Taft Benson.

6. Name some important tin-producing countries.

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"Mood of the Farmers," by C. B. Palmer, *New York Times Magazine*, October 11, 1953.

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THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS stretches eastward from Europe across Asia to the Pacific Ocean, and reaches northward into the Arctic

Life in Russia

(Continued from page 1)

is like today is to examine briefly the lives of two typical citizens. First, let us see how a factory worker, whom we shall call Boris, lives in present-day Russia.

Boris works six days a week, eight hours a day, in a tractor factory. He is paid on the basis of how much work he turns out. He is expected to reach a weekly quota. If he exceeds his quota, he is praised and his income goes up. If he doesn't meet it, he is made to feel ashamed, and his income drops.

Workers' Pay

As an average worker, Boris earns about 600 rubles a month. A ruble is supposed to be worth about 25 cents in U. S. money, but it will not buy as much as 25 cents will in the United States. Boris' wages are small when measured in terms of their purchasing value. For example, a pound of butter will cost him between four and five hours' pay, while a new suit will cost him more than a month's wages. A pair of good shoes will cost Boris his entire pay for almost two weeks.

(In comparison, a U. S. worker making about \$71 a week—average pay in manufacturing industries—can buy a pound of butter with half an hour's pay, a new suit with three or four days' wages, and a pair of good shoes with about one day's income.)

Discipline in Boris' factory is strict. If he is more than 20 minutes late to work, without a good excuse, he can be punished as a criminal. Although he does not especially like his job, he cannot leave it and seek another. To leave his job is a crime punishable under law.

While Boris belongs to a union, it gives him few of the benefits which U. S. union members receive. The government is his employer and sets the wages. Union officials are given

to understand that their main job is to keep production high, and Boris is under constant pressure to increase his output. Strikes are not tolerated.

Boris, his wife, and two children live in an apartment house near his factory. The building was constructed only six years ago, but it was not well built and is starting to look dilapidated. Boris and his family occupy one room for living and sleeping quarters. They have to share the kitchen with several other families.

Even though Boris' wife has but one room to keep in order, she has to work hard. Such conveniences as a washing machine and vacuum cleaner are beyond her hopes of attaining. Moreover, she works eight hours a day in a construction gang doing heavy work.

Boris and his family have a monotonous diet. Bread, cereal, potatoes, and some other vegetables are the principal items. Now and then there is meat, butter, and eggs, but these products are scarce and costly.

Boris does not have much time for leisure. He spends what time he can in his little garden on the outskirts of the city. The vegetables he raises there are a big contribution to the family larder. Occasionally he visits a workers' club and now and then goes to a soccer game. Once in

a great while he and his wife go to a movie, but they mostly stay home.

The apartment building in which Boris lives has a radio with a loudspeaker in each family's quarters. TV sets are being made in Russia but Boris cannot afford one. He dreams some day of having a "Pobeda"—a small, four-cylinder car made in Russia—but he actually has little hope of ever securing one. The 16,000 rubles that a "Pobeda" costs represents more than two years' pay to Boris.

Boris' life is quite typical of that of a factory worker in the Soviet Union. Today about one third of the Russian people live in urban areas. Though conditions vary in different parts of the Soviet Union, most city people contend in lesser or greater degree with the same problems faced by Boris and his family.

Now let us turn to the other big group in the Soviet Union—the farm workers. Let us see what life is like for Nikolai and his family who live on a big collective farm.

Collective farms, on which almost all Russian farm workers live, were set up by the Russian government about 1930. At that time the government did away with privately operated farms. All the agricultural land was divided up into big collective farms.

Russia's communist leaders felt that farmers who banded together and pooled their resources would be able to produce more for themselves and the state than would individual farmers. Also they could be more closely controlled by the government. Collectives were set up all over the Soviet Union, though millions of Russian farmers resisted the change strongly.

The collective farm on which Nikolai works is one of approximately 100,000 which exist today. It is about 3,600 acres in size—average for such farms—and employs about 200 families. The principal crop is wheat.

Each year the government takes a large part of the wheat crop. After the government has taken its part, the remainder—often a woefully small

amount—is divided among the workers. Nikolai's share, like that of the other workers, depends on how difficult a job he has performed and how hard he has worked at it.

Just as in the factories, there is constant pressure on the farms to boost production, and bonuses, medals, and titles go to the "champion" workers. There are punishments for those who do not keep up with their co-workers.

Nikolai's farm is under tight government control. A major control agency is the tractor station nearby which furnishes tractors, combines, and other machines for all the collective farms in the area. Farmers are not allowed to own any machinery themselves.

So bitter were the farmers at losing their land that they were finally permitted to hold and cultivate a small plot for their own use. On such a plot—which may not be more than 2½ acres in size—Nikolai and his family raise vegetables. He is also allowed to own one cow and a few other animals.

Farm Markets

From their plot of land, Nikolai and his family derive a small income. They raise vegetables which they sell at farm markets where, unlike the government stores, prices are not controlled. Part of the wheat which Nikolai receives for his work on the collective farm is also sold at the farm market. His cash income, though, is very small.

With what they produce and sell on their own, plus what they get from the collective farm, Nikolai and his family eke out a living. Prices are high, though, and many of the city goods they buy are shoddy. Others are extremely scarce. Nikolai's wife, for example, may have to wait for weeks to secure such an article as a common sewing needle.

Nikolai, like Boris, receives certain social benefits from the government. He and his family receive medical at-



RUSSIAN PREMIER
Georgi Malenkov

SOVPHOTO

tention at government expense. Later he can get a small old-age payment.

In these brief sketches of Boris and Nikolai may be read the stories of millions of poorly clad, poorly housed, and poorly fed citizens of the Soviet Union. While Russia has made substantial economic progress in the past 20 years, the fact is that living standards for most of the people have advanced very little.

The reason for this situation is that Soviet leaders have promoted the growth of large-scale industry. The development of mines and the construction of steel mills, power dams, and arms factories have been pushed. These enterprises, though, cannot be eaten or worn. Unless they are put to work for the improvement of living conditions instead of for developing military power, the people do not benefit from them in their everyday lives.

To build up these heavy industries, the Soviet leaders have had to clamp down on the growth of industries turning out consumer goods—clothing, washing machines, food items, radios, vacuum cleaners, and all the other articles that people want and need to possess.

Farm production has also had to play second fiddle to heavy industry, and the output of such basic crops as wheat has not even kept up with population growth in the past 25 years.

But now all this is to be changed, says Malenkov. If so, what will this mean?

Meaning of Change

Some observers believe that if Malenkov is sincere, there will be less emphasis on making war equipment. It will take time to increase the nation's total production, so if there is a considerable increase of consumer goods in the near future, there will have to be a drop in heavy industry. If this results in less emphasis on war production, then it would seem that, for some time at least, the danger of war might not be so great as it has been in the period since the Second World War.

On the other hand, some feel that Malenkov may have made his promises merely to win support from the Russian people and strengthen his own hand at a time when other top communists were challenging him. According to this feeling, Malenkov may have no intention of keeping his promises.

If this turns out to be the case, millions of Russian people will no doubt develop a bitterness and hatred toward Malenkov, but they may not be able to do anything to overthrow him. Meanwhile, if he continues to develop Russia's military power, that nation will be an increasing threat to us and the free world.

No one on the outside knows what is in the minds of Malenkov and his associates. What we must do, it is agreed, is to keep a close watch on developments in Russia, so we shall know how best to deal with that country.

(In this article we have focused attention on living conditions in the Soviet Union, and have therefore dealt almost entirely with economic matters. We have on numerous occasions in the past drawn attention to political conditions in Russia—with their denials of freedom of religion, speech, press, and voting—and we shall do so again in the future.)



THE MOST FASHIONABLE SHOPS in Moscow are located in the streets off this intersection. Traffic was light on the rainy day when this photo was taken.



SLUMS IN MOSCOW, as in cities elsewhere in the world, may be found close to new apartment houses and government buildings



ON A RUSSIAN COLLECTIVE FARM. These workers are getting ready to store harvested grain in barns. The girl in the foreground apparently keeps weight records. The gadget on the table looks like an abacus, an ancient calculating machine.

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated October 5, 12, 19, and 26. The answer key appears in the November 2 issue of The Civic Leader. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. One important step that has been taken in an effort to bring the Indochinese war to a successful conclusion is (a) greatly increased aid from the United States; (b) withdrawal of Russia from the conflict; (c) entry of UN forces into the war; (d) unification of the forces of Bao Dai and Ho Chi Minh.

2. The Supreme Court spends most of its time (a) settling disputes between the President and Congress; (b) considering whether or not proposed laws will be Constitutional; (c) reviewing decisions made in lower courts; (d) directing the work of the U. S. Attorney General.

3. The attitude of our government toward Spain has become more friendly because (a) many Americans feel that closer relations with Spain will strengthen our defenses against communist Russia; (b) Spain fought hard to defeat Germany and Italy in World War II; (c) Spain is an important member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; (d) the Spanish government has taken the lead in promoting democracy in western Europe.

4. According to J. Edgar Hoover, a basic cause of crime is (a) the failure of schools and churches to give attention to training law-abiding citizens; (b) civic indifference to dishonesty and corruption; (c) widespread dishonesty among law-enforcement officers; (d) the failure of our courts to deal harshly with law-breakers.

5. The United Nations was able to take quick and forceful action against aggression in South Korea because (a) large American forces happened to be on the spot at the time; (b) Russian representatives were boycotting Security Council meetings; (c) most Chinese troops were fighting in Tibet; (d) Russia favored it.

6. During its 8-year life, the United Nations has had success in (a) limiting the armaments of all nations; (b) unifying Germany and Austria; (c) fighting hunger, disease, and ignorance in certain parts of the world; (d) creating a government that rules all the nations of the world.

7. The "veto" provision in the UN Charter has frequently hampered the work of the (a) General Assembly; (b) Trusteeship Council; (c) International Court of Justice; (d) Security Council.

8. Most students of government agree that our states could do a better job of managing their affairs if (a) all state lawmakers belonged to the same political party; (b) state lawmaking sessions were limited to 30 days each year; (c) salaries of all state lawmakers were limited to \$2,500 per year; (d) state lawmaking bodies were comparatively small and well-paid.

9. All Supreme Court justices are appointed by the President with approval of the (a) House of Representatives; (b) Department of Justice; (c) American Bar Association; (d) Senate.

10. The bitterest complaint being made by the people of Poland is that (a) they have no freedom; (b) their cities are not being rebuilt; (c) they have no elected representatives in the Russian government; (d) they are not permitted to spend vacations in other lands.

11. The United States entered the Korean War in order to (a) overthrow the communist government of China; (b) keep Formosa out of Chiang Kai-shek's hands; (c) support its policy against aggression; (d) protect American trading interests.

(Concluded on page 8)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

12. The two nations quarreling over control of Trieste are Italy and _____
13. Which political party recently gained two seats in Congress? _____
14. Name the major UN branch which discusses important world problems and in which every UN member nation has one vote. _____
15. Name the state that has a one-house lawmaking body. _____
16. James Mitchell has joined the Eisenhower Cabinet as _____
17. The Chief Justice of the United States is _____
18. What mountain range forms a natural barrier between Spain and France? _____
19. A national election on November 10 will decide whether Elpidio Quirino or Ramon Magsaysay will become president of the _____
20. Under the terms of a military agreement recently signed, the United States has been given the use of several airports and seaports in _____
21. The three states of Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia together form the country of _____

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

22. Marshal Tito
23. Francisco Franco
24. Herbert Brownell
25. Andrei Vishinsky
26. Henry Cabot Lodge
27. Dag Hammarskjold
- A. Russian Foreign Minister
- B. British Delegate to the UN
- C. Dictator of Yugoslavia
- D. U. S. Attorney General
- E. U. S. Ambassador to the UN
- F. Head of Spanish government
- G. Secretary-General of the UN

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in *italics*.

28. He issued a *succinct* statement. (a) one-sided; (b) critical; (c) brief; (d) long-winded.
29. Her taste in clothes was *impeccable*. (a) faultless; (b) well-known; (c) questionable; (d) not good.
30. The decision was *incongruous* with the committee's views. (a) in agreement; (b) linked; (c) inescapable; (d) not consistent.
31. The committee favored *dissolution* of the political party. (a) strengthening; (b) destruction; (c) discussion; (d) consideration.
32. His *complacent* attitude was annoying. (a) dissatisfied; (b) satisfied; (c) concerned; (d) unsure.
33. *Credulous* people are (a) skeptical; (b) easily misled; (c) hungry; (d) uneducated.

A Career for Tomorrow - - As a Salesman

If you like to meet people and have a friendly, outgoing personality, you may want to choose selling as your life's work.

Your qualifications for success in this field include, besides a pleasing personality, the ability to take an immediate interest in a stranger's problems. Honesty, reliability, and tact are additional qualities you should have. We all know from experience that we may be taken in once by a glib salesperson, but we return only if we feel we have been dealt with fairly.

Your preparation, if you enter this field, will depend upon the kind of selling career you choose. For many sales jobs, specialized training is not essential, though high school subjects such as English, business arithmetic, and psychology can be helpful.

If you plan to deal with art, music, books, and the like, college courses in history, art, music, and English would help you in your work. Advanced study in scientific fields is almost a necessity if you are to sell highly complicated mechanical equipment. In addition, some colleges give special courses—marketing, merchandising, and store management, for instance—that may be valuable. A college education, though not needed for a sales career, may help open the door to a responsible retail position.

Whatever you do about going to college, you will learn to sell *only* through on-the-job experience. You can begin to gain some valuable experience in this field now by working in stores

of various kinds during rush seasons and during your summer vacation. This will give you a good chance to test your interest in selling.

Job opportunities in this field are plentiful. Almost everything we use comes to us through a salesperson. The picture, though, is not completely



ROBERT SCHWEITZ PHOTO
SELLING AUTOMOBILES pays well when the country is prosperous

rosy. Competition is keen—both for jobs and customers—and unless you are really a good salesperson you will stumble along in poorly paid jobs with little hope of finding a satisfactory vocational niche.

Salespeople work in stores, they travel, or they sell their wares from house to house. Those who travel have greater freedom in planning their work than do the ones in stores, and their salaries are generally higher. Traveling positions, though, call for ingenuity and perseverance in finding customers. They also keep a per-

son away from home a good deal of the time.

Your earnings are likely to vary greatly. Usually, salespeople have a fixed income, which may be rather small, and they receive a percentage of their total sales as commissions. A beginner may not earn more than \$150 a month, including commissions. Experienced salespeople may earn as little as \$2,000, or as much as \$25,000 or more a year. In some retail stores, earnings are increased by discounts that employees get on purchases.

Advantages and disadvantages that you may run up against in this field depend largely upon your attitude toward selling. If you like to sell, there are probably few disadvantages in going into the work. Your earnings and opportunities for advancement, which vary in the different branches of selling, will be limited only by your own ability. If you don't like to sell, don't try to enter this field. You probably would not earn an adequate living and you would be constantly discouraged by your inability to advance.

Further information can be secured from managers and personnel officers of firms in your community about opportunities they offer for temporary or permanent employment in sales positions. A pamphlet entitled "Opportunities in Selling" can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 30 cents in coin.

Historical Backgrounds - - On the Farm

THE American farmer always has had his share of troubles, but his problems have changed in character greatly since the days when ours was a small, new nation (see page 1 story on agriculture).

The farmer's earliest worry was how to produce bigger crops, for the demand for agricultural products increased as the country grew in area and population. There were setbacks in periods of depression, but, on the whole, a hard-working farmer generally was able to prosper.

Hard-working he certainly had to be, though. Ground had to be prepared with a horse-drawn plow. Seed was planted by hand. The farmer and his sons—and occasionally a hired hand or two—cut the grain with scythes and picked ears of corn from the stalks, one by one, at harvest time. Grain kernels were separated (threshed) from the straw stalks by beating the grain on the barn floor with a flail—a stick attached to a handle by a leather cord.

Mechanical aids to the farmer began coming along by the 1800's, and they helped to ease the task of turning out bigger crops. Cyrus McCormick offered the reaper—which replaced the scythe for cutting grain—in the 1830's. Then came the threshing machine, which did away with the slow work of flailing grain, and the tractor. The tractor replaced the horse in drawing the reaper, the plow, and other farm implements.

The age of mechanized farming was well under way by 1910, and it has been progressing steadily ever since.

Today we have the combine—a machine which is both reaper and thresher. It rolls through the field, cuts the grain, threshes it, sprays the straw on the ground, and pours the kernels into waiting trucks. The cotton farmer has a mechanical picker, which can do the work of 40 to 60 people in a day's time. A harvesting machine picks and cleans ears of corn and loads them into a trailer. It takes the place of 12 men picking by hand.

There are also machines to harvest sugar cane, lettuce, potatoes, carrots, spinach, peas, and many other crops. Besides his field equipment, the farmer has electricity to serve him. Nearly nine-tenths of farms are within reach of electric lines, and can obtain power to light houses and barns, pump water, milk cows, grind feed, and freeze food supplies.

Mechanical aids—plus better seed

—make it possible for the farmer to get greater harvests for each hour of his labor. An acre of wheat, for example, can now be cultivated and harvested with a total of 2½ hours of labor. A hundred years ago the same work took 64 hours.

With 100 hours of work, the 1910 farmer could provide a year's food for eight people. Today's farmer can make 100 hours of work produce enough meals for 15 people for a year. As a result of mechanical aids, fewer people are needed for agricultural work today. In 1800, about 9 out of 10 people lived on farms. Now only about 1 out of 6 does so.

Where the early farmer worried about how to get bigger crops, today's farmer has to worry about selling as much as he can produce. The new problem has been with us much of the time since the end of World War I.

The farmer looked for government help and, during the 1920's, laws were passed to extend credit to him. The federal government also undertook to find new markets for agricultural products. Under President Franklin Roosevelt, a new method was tried in 1933. In return for cutting down on acreage planted, the farmer was given cash benefits by the federal government. Since 1933, farmers have been receiving some kind of federal assistance, although the methods of distributing the aid have varied.

The problem of surpluses vanished during World War II, when there was a great demand for farm products. It has now returned, however.



INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.
FARMERS gathered to watch Cyrus McCormick's first reaper